

Mr. Homfeld was selected as the most outstanding company owner-manager from among 500 other exemplary nominees.

Ned Homfeld, the president of Spirit Airlines, is the driving force behind the young company and its remarkable success in the highly competitive airline business. Spirit Airlines, a small air carrier, offers low cost jet service to some of America's most popular business and leisure destinations as well as underserved areas in need of air travel service.

Before his involvement with Spirit Airlines, Mr. Homfeld was involved in numerous other operations including Ground Air Transfers, which delivered critically needed parts to automotive plants, and Charter One, a company that offered public charter day trips. Mr. Homfeld's drive for continued improvements in the airline industry is a testament to his hard work and devotion to the American public.

Mr. Homfeld's continued dedication has not only served Spirit Airlines, but has greatly benefited the greater community as well. Spirit Airlines, providing safe, quality air travel at affordable prices, has been a welcome contributor to Detroit's and other cities across the United States, economic successes during the past decade. His creativity, perseverance and entrepreneurial spirit is an example to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ANTI-CRUELTY SOCIETY ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is with pride and pleasure that I take a moment today to recognize the Anti-Cruelty Society of Chicago on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. The society's centennial celebration is entitled "1999—The Anti-Cruelty Society Centennial: A Legacy of Caring, A Vision of Hope for the 21st Century," and is truly an appropriate description of the organization's valuable impact on the lives and treatment of the nation's animals.

One hundreds years ago, the society's founders, led by Illinois resident Mrs. Theodore Thomas, were concerned with inhumane butchery in slaughterhouses, the treatment of old sick workhorses, and hundreds of thousands of malnourished homeless dogs and cats. In their efforts to eliminate cruelty to animals, to educate the public on the humane treatment of animals, and to create a refuge for stray animals until they could be placed in good homes, the society achieved impressive accomplishments in Illinois and across the nation. In fact, the group gave rise to an organization so dynamic that it has impacted and continues to impact public policy and set the standard of humane treatment for animals worldwide.

Once again, I congratulate the Anti-Cruelty Society in Chicago on their re-

markable first 100 years of service, and wish them the best of luck as they continue to make a positive impact upon the lives of animals and humans in the many years to come.●

MISS MISSOURI 1999

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the winner of the 1999 Miss Missouri Pageant, Miss Patryce CoRae King. On June 12th, in my home town of Mexico, MO, Miss King won the State pageant and will go on to represent Missouri in the Miss America Pageant. Miss King is an accomplished pianist and won the talent competition of the pageant with a rendition of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." I wish Miss King the best of luck and know that she will represent Missouri well at the Miss America Pageant in September.●

RETIREMENT OF JAMES R. SASSER AS AMBASSADOR TO CHINA

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my thanks and appreciation to Ambassador James Sasser for the excellent job he has done as United States ambassador to China. After more than three years of dedicated service, Ambassador Sasser will be stepping down from his position.

Ambassador Sasser served during an interesting, often strenuous, period of U.S.-China relations. Drawing on his experiences as a distinguished three term United States Senator and member of the Foreign Relations Committee, he worked tirelessly to ensure that the United States remained engaged with China to promote stability, openness, and prosperity in that country. Even Henry Kissinger, who initially expressed misgivings about Ambassador Sasser's appointment, recently remarked, "I have known no American ambassador who has done a better or more passionate job on Sino-U.S. relations than Ambassador Sasser."

Even during the bad times, when relations soured, Ambassador Sasser has maintained a high level of communication with Chinese leaders and provided a calm and steady influence. He recognized that no single issue can make or break U.S.-China relations and that open and frank dialogue is essential to promoting American values, especially those in the area of human rights.

Though he served with distinction for more than three years, perhaps Ambassador Sasser's finest hour came only a few weeks ago. After the accidental bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, tens of thousands of angry protesters gathered in front of the American embassy in Beijing and hurled bricks and rocks at the building. The situation was dangerously close to spinning out of control and the lives of those inside the embassy were

potentially in danger. Rather than seek cover in a safer place, Ambassador Sasser stayed.

Near the end of his service, he provided us with a lasting image of poise, strength, and courage. His actions were indeed inspiring to those that were with him in Beijing and also to those of us who were watching as the events unfolded on television. He represented the finest of Americans who serve their country in embassies and consulates around the world—he was a diplomat who would not give up his post.

Again, I congratulate Ambassador Sasser for a job well done and wish him the best for his future endeavors.●

KICKOFF OF THE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, last week marked the beginning of the 1999 Women's World Cup, a competition that includes the best soccer teams from throughout the world. Held every four years since 1991, the women's World Cup brings together the finest women athletes and allows them to compete at the highest level. It is so wonderful that young women throughout the world have these role models to look up to—role models such as our very own charismatic Julie Foudy, working mother Joy Fawcett, teenage sensation Tiffany Roberts, and veteran superstar Michelle Akers.

The United States team, which is among the favorites to win the tournament, is led by the best women's soccer player of all time: Mia Hamm. Mia Hamm has scored more international goals than any person—man or woman—in the history of the game. It was perfectly fitting that she scored the first goal of the tournament by half-volleying a Brandi Chastain pass into the roof of the net.

It is also fitting that Mia Hamm was born in 1972, the same year that President Nixon signed into law Title IX of the Education Amendments Act. This law ensures that federally funded schools provide equal athletic opportunity for members of both sexes. Twenty-five years later, the U.S. National Team is one clear sign that this law is a success.

According to the Women's Sports Foundation, the number of girls who participate in high school sports since the enactment of Title IX has risen from 300 thousand to 2.37 million. Women are now 37 percent of college athletes and were 39 percent of the 1996 United States Olympic Team members.

The record-breaking crowds this weekend in San Jose and Pasadena reveal that the enthusiasm for women's soccer is not restricted to players only, but is shared by the public. Over 78,000 loyal fans packed the seats of Giants Stadium to watch the US-Denmark match, and the weekend ticket sales total of over 134,000 surpassed the

112,000 for the entire 1995 Women's World Cup in Sweden. Ticket sales for the Cup to date have passed 500,000 and are rapidly growing—potentially shattering the 600,000 world record for a sporting event held for women.

The stellar start for the World Cup speaks volumes for the future of women's soccer. Female soccer players may not have to wait much longer to play professionally in the United States. The successful weekend attests to the wonderful athletic stars and enthusiastic fans ready, willing and eager to support a women's professional soccer league in major markets such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and Chicago. Citizens both domestic and worldwide are watching the Women's World Cup with pride that our teams are pioneering the path to put women's sports on parity with men's.

The impact of gender equality in sports goes far beyond the soccer field and ticket sales. Female student athletes are more likely to graduate from college than students who do not participate in sports, women who are active in sports and recreational activities as girls feel greater confidence, self-esteem and pride in their physical and social selves; and 80 percent of women identified as key leaders in Fortune 500 companies participated in sports during their childhood.

The Women's World Cup is also an important way to bring together diverse nations of the world. From North Korea to Canada, from Ghana to Sweden, everyone shares in the joys of competition and love of the game. Television viewers throughout the world have been introduced to many countries and its players. During the first week of play, we saw the flamboyant Nigerian goalkeeper Ann Chiejinei confidently lead the "Super Falcons" to the second round. The Brazilian onename wonders of Sissi and Preinha brought to mind visions of Pele and Romario in scoring the first hat tricks of the tournament. And Norway, which has played in the previous two World Cup title games, opened its title defense with three impressive victories.

So, Mr. President, I will make two predictions. My first prediction is that the United States will reclaim their title as women's World Cup Champions on July 10, in Pasadena, California. And more importantly, my second prediction is that generations of women and girls for years to come will continue to thrive because of Title IX.●

HIGHMORE RESEARCH STATION

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to express my warmest congratulations to the South Dakota State University Central Research Station in Highmore, SD.

Today the experiment station is celebrating one hundred years of dedicated service to the agriculture industry in

the Northern Plains. It is an outstanding example of the continued application of technological advancements by our farmers and ranchers in an ever-changing competitive environment.

The Highmore Research Farm, also known as the Central Crops and Soils Research Station, was the first research farm created in the north-central United States. It was created in 1899 at the request of livestock producers who desired drought-resistant forage plants on the prairie. It was determined that a substation was to be established between the James and Missouri Rivers and a location was eventually secured near Highmore. Initially the work at the experiment station was centered around testing drought-resisting forage and devising ways and means for livestock producers to obtain winter forage as well. Later, crop production and rotation became an integral part of the research station.

Affiliated with South Dakota State University in Brookings, this experiment station has been a leader in providing and conducting state-of-the-art agriculture research. In Highmore and at the various other South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Stations across the state, researchers cover a variety of aspects of agriculture, ranging from crop to livestock production. Over 150 different projects demand the time and effort by these dedicated researchers at this time. Through sound science and a problem solving attitude these researchers expand the knowledge base for all of agriculture and those affected by it on a daily basis.

In this critical time in production agriculture while depressed crop and livestock prices are driving agriculture producers from their operations, it is all the more essential that we encourage the research taking place at the experiment stations. As we enter a new millennium we must develop ways for producers to afford and adapt to the technological advancements that can make United States agriculture more competitive. This is crucial in order for South Dakota to compete in the ever-changing global market.

The research and knowledge gained from these experiment stations benefit not only agriculture producers, but also consumers living in rural towns and urban cities. Learning from the past and building towards the future is a daily mission at the Highmore Experiment Station. I applaud the efforts of each researcher and all of those who dedicated their time and effort to this farm in the last 100 years. I extend my best wishes to the Central Research Station in Highmore for another 100 years of successful research and service to South Dakota agriculture.●

THE HISTORIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE 5TH BOMB WING, MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA, TO OPERATION ALLIED FORCE

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the Secretary of Defense has described our military action in Kosovo as the most accurate application of Air Power in history. The men and women of the 5th Bomb Wing, Minot, North Dakota, were critical to that effort, and the citizens of this state and our entire country are justifiably proud of their efforts.

The B-52 bombing raids on Yugoslavian positions on June 7, 1999, undoubtedly hastened the decision by Yugoslavia to sign the NATO peace agreement ending the conflict. As the Washington Post reported on the significance of the strike, "Two days later, Yugoslav generals formally agreed to withdraw all forces from Kosovo." The Washington Post Article entitled, "NATO's Most Lethal Air-strike Ended a Battle, Perhaps a War," reported that the B-52 attack on Mount Pastrok was the turning point in the Kosovo conflict.

Like the "Linebacker" operations in Vietnam, the unmatched striking power of the B-52 bomber convinced the enemy that negotiation was preferable to suffering the business end of over 70,000 pounds of munitions. The crews of the B-52 bombers that carried out their missions in Kosovo proved the anecdote again, "That bomber pilots make history."

In recognizing the efforts of the crews and support personnel of the 5th Bomb Wing, we cannot forget the sacrifices made by the families and loved ones left behind. Today's professional All-Volunteer Air Force is a different organization than the one that preceded it. More times than not, when an Air Force member deploys, he or she leaves behind a spouse and small children who depend on them, who miss them, and who pray for their safe return. We in the Senate owe a debt of gratitude to those brave families who lovingly support the men and women of our Armed Forces.

Mr. President, in every conflict following the Korean War, the B-52 bomber has delivered the most debilitating blows to our enemies. As demonstrated in Yugoslavia, the B-52 is still capable of delivering the initial strikes in a conflict with stand-off weapons, and then executing decisive strikes on fielded forces with a range of munitions.

The United States Air Force's plan to fly the B-52 bomber well into the next century is a tribute both to the aircraft and the innovative crews that continue to demonstrate the decisive capabilities of the aircraft. Most importantly, as long as the Air Force has men and women like those who serve in the 5th Bomb Wing, this nation sleeps well protected.●